



IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please place the paragraphs at page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In another aspect, the present invention provides a recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising a housing member for housing a recording medium, a recording and/or reproducing unit for recording and/or reproducing the information for the recording medium, at least three shaft units mounted to a container containing the recording medium and extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of thickness of the recording medium, and an elastic member formed of an elastic material and provided with a shaft accommodating opening. The shaft unit is introduced into the shaft accommodating opening of the elastic member. At least a portion of the outer lateral surface of the elastic member is contacted with the housing member.

Thus, in the recording and/or reproducing apparatus of the present invention, in which the shaft unit mounted to the container containing provided to the recording medium is introduced into the cylindrically-shaped shaft accommodating opening in the elastic member, a sufficient contact area is provided between the recording medium container and the elastic member. A sufficient thickness of the elastic member is provided in a direction along the axis of the shaft accommodating opening and in a direction perpendicular to this direction.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 9, line 10 to page 11, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In another exemplary embodiment ~~With the subject matter of claim 2, in which the object~~ contains is a recording medium, which is vulnerable against vibrations or impacts, may be protected reliably against the vibrations or impacts.

With the recording and/or reproducing apparatus, including a recording medium and a recording and/or reproducing unit for recording and/or reproducing the information for the recording medium, according to the present invention, the recording medium container includes at least three shaft units extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of thickness of the recording medium. An elastic member formed of an elastic material is provided with a cylindrically-shaped shaft accommodating opening, into which is introduced the shaft unit. At least a portion of the outer lateral surface of the elastic member is contacted with the housing member.

Thus, in the recording and/or reproducing apparatus of the present invention, in which the shaft unit mounted to the container containing provided to the recording medium is inserted in the cylindrically-shaped shaft accommodating opening of the elastic member, a sufficient contact area is provided between the recording medium container and the elastic member. A sufficient thickness of the elastic member may be achieved both in the axial direction of the shaft accommodating opening and in a direction perpendicular to this axial direction, so that a necessary and sufficient buffering action may be achieved to reliably protect the recording medium against damages or malfunctions.

In yet another embodiment ~~the subject matter of claims 3 and 7~~, the housing member is contacted with the elastic member in the manner of clinching it from at least two directions, namely the direction of extension of the shaft unit and the direction substantially perpendicular thereto, so that it is possible to buffer the vibrations and impacts from all directions.

In a further embodiment ~~the subject matter of claims 4 and 8~~, in which the elastic member is substantially of the cylindrical outer shape, it is possible to provide for a sufficient thickness of the elastic member in the direction of extension of the shaft unit and in the direction substantially perpendicular thereto.

In an additional embodiment the subject matter of claims 5 and 9, in which the outer peripheral surface of the elastic member has a convex shape is convexed when seen from the circumferential direction, the state of contact between the elastic member and the housing member is changed during buffering from the point contact to the surface contact, with the contact surface increasing progressively. Thus, the acceleration of the impact is absorbed as it delineates a curve like a bus tub when time and acceleration are plotted on the abscissa and on the ordinate, respectively, thus moderating even the maximum impact.

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, line 21 to page 21, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

There is no particular limitation to the shape of the elastic member 14 provided that a sufficient thickness of the elastic member is assured in a direction of buffering the vibrations or impacts. However, the elastic member 14 is preferably of a tire shape, as shown for example in Figs. 8 and 9. Thus, the outer profile of the elastic member 14 is preferably such that the elastic member is circular when seen along the axis (see Fig. 8) and the outer peripheral surface 14b has a convex shape is convexed when seen from the circumferential direction (see Fig. 9). Thus, during the normal operation, that is when the elastic member 14 is not performing the buffering action, the outer peripheral surface 14b of the elastic member 14 is substantially in a point-to-point contact with the wall sections 11u, 11d, 15ul, 15ur, 15dl and 15dr, at contact points, as indicated [·] in Figs. 8 and 9. However, during the buffering, the point contact transfers to the surface contact, with the contact area increasing progressively. Thus, if the abscissa and the coordinate denote time and acceleration, respectively, the acceleration of impacts is absorbed, as a bus-tub like curve is delineated, thus moderating even the maximum impact.

Please replace the paragraph at page 26, line 11 to page 27, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Four elastic members 140, 140, are supported to the hard disc drive 110 by plural shaft units 130, 130. The elastic member 140 is formed of an elastic material, such as elastomer, and is formed to an outer shape of a tire, that is, a disc or a cylinder of an increased thickness, as shown in Fig. 16A. A cylindrically-shaped shaft accommodating opening 141 is formed for extending through the center of the elastic member 140. A pair of recesses of shallow depth 142, 142 are formed in the portions in both lateral sides of the elastic member 140 surrounding the center, that is, the cylindrically-shaped shaft accommodating opening 141. The inner diameter of each of the recesses 142, 142 is approximately equal to the outer shape of the flange 131 of the shaft unit 130. The elastic member 140 has a convex an outer peripheral surface 143 ~~convexed~~ when seen along the peripheral direction, as shown in Fig. 16B.